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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/531,913

04/19/2005

Kazuo Yoneyama

050220

3810

23850

7590

02/22/2006

ARMSTRONG, KRATZ, QUINTOS, HANSON & BROOKS, LLP  
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WASHINGTON, DC 20006

EXAMINER

IMAS, VLADIMIR

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2839

DATE MAILED: 02/22/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

(A)

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/531,913	<b>Applicant(s)</b> YONEYAMA ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Vladimir Imas	<b>Art Unit</b> 2839	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 January 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2 and 3 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>01/06/06</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nishioka (US 2003/0194897).

Regarding claim 1, Nishioka, fig. 1-16, discloses a card connector for receiving a card 3 having an engagement recess 4 on at least one side face, comprising: a base 6 having a slot 2 into which the card can be inserted; a slider 14 provided at a position in the base to be abutable on the card; spring 27 forcing the slider in a discharging direction of the card; and a lock spring 18 comprising a plate spring having a tip end 19 engageable with the engagement recess of the card and a base end mounted on the slider, the tip end displaceable in a direction away from the card, wherein said slider is pushed by the inserted card and thereby is moved with the card from a discharging position to a card insertion position against an urging force of the spring while, upon discharge of the card, the slider is moved along with the card by the urging force of said spring from the card insertion position to a card pop-out preventing position beyond the card discharging position, and the base is provided with a first rib 21 which abuts the tip end of the lock spring to prevent the tip end from being displaced when the slider is positioned at the card pop-out preventing position.

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Regarding claim 4, Nishioka discloses the tip end of the lock spring can be elastically deformed so as to disengage from said engagement recess of the card when it abuts at least the first rib.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

3. Claims 2 and 3 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim 1, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reason for the indication of allowable subject matter: The Prior Art does not disclose the base is provided with a second rib which abuts the tip end of the lock spring to prevent the tip end from being displaced when said slider is positioned at the card insertion position as required by claim 2. The Prior Art does not disclose the base is provided with an elastic member which abuts the tip end of the slider to return the slider from the card pop-out preventing position to the card discharging position when the slider is positioned at the card pop-out preventing position as required by claim 3.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

***Response to Arguments***

4. Applicant's arguments, see REMARKS, filed January 9, 2006, with respect to the rejections of claims 1-4 under Kikuchi et al. (US 2003/0096521) have been fully

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considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn.

However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Nishioka (US 2003/0194897).


**Conclusion**

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vladimir Imas whose telephone number is 571-272-8288. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, T. Patel can be reached on 571-272-2098. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

✓  
Examiner  
Vladimir Imas  
02/15/2006

  
**TULIDAS C. PATEL**  
**SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER**